Dandeneau, Debra A.

From: Jeff Pomerantz < jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com>

Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 9:19 PM

To: Dandeneau, Debra A.

Cc: Gregory V. Demo; Ira Kharasch; Frances A. Smith; Eric Soderlund; Hartmann, Michelle;

Jeff Pomerantz

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: HIGHLAND: Question re Convenience Class Election under the Plan

-- SENDING AGAIN WITH GREG'S CORRECT EMAIL

Raise your concerns with the Judge Debra.

Jeff

From: "Dandeneau, Debra A." < Debra. Dandeneau@bakermckenzie.com >

Date: Monday, January 4, 2021 at 9:17 PM

To: Jeffrey Pomerantz < jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com>

Cc: Greg Demo <GDemo@pszjlaw.com>, Ira Kharasch <ikharasch@pszjlaw.com>, "Frances A. Smith"

<Frances.Smith@judithwross.com>, Eric Soderlund <Eric.Soderlund@judithwross.com>, "Hartmann, Michelle"

<Michelle.Hartmann@bakermckenzie.com>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: HIGHLAND: Question re Convenience Class Election under the Plan -- SENDING AGAIN

WITH GREG'S CORRECT EMAIL

Dear Jeff,

A claim is a right to payment, and a claimant may hold multiple claims. Nowhere in the plan does it state that a claimant must make the Convenience Class Election with respect to all of its claims. To the contrary, the definition of "Convenience Class Election" refers to a "claim" in the singular: "the option provided to each Holder of a General Unsecured Claim that is a liquidated Claim as of the Confirmation Date on their Ballot to elect to reduce their claim to \$1,000,000 and receive the treatment provided to Convenience Claims." (Emphasis added)

There are ways for a plan to provide that a creditor's claims must be aggregated for the purposes of the convenience claim election (and I am sure that Pachulski has come across numerous examples in its practice). Your plan, however, is not one of these examples.

Best,

Deb

Debra A. Dandeneau Chair, Global Restructuring & Insolvency Baker & McKenzie LLP 452 Fifth Ave<x-apple-data-detectors://0/1> New York, NY 10018<x-apple-data-detectors://0/1> Tel: +1 212 626 4875<tel:+1%20212%20626%204875> Mobile: +1 973 477 6220<tel:+1%20212%20626%204875>

RESTRUCTURING & INSOLVENCY

Baker's Global Restructuring & Insolvency Blog: http://restructuring.bakermckenzie.com<http://restructuring.bakermckenzie.com> EXHIBIT SE21

On Jan 4, 2021, at 8:39 PM, Jeff Pomerantz <jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com> wrote: Debra –

Greg responded below that the term liquidated, as that term is used in the plan, means a claim in a sum certain. Your clients do not have a liquidated claim as their claims include amounts which are not in a sum certain. Accordingly, the convenience class treatment is not available to them

Best, Jeff

From: "Dandeneau, Debra A." < Debra. Dandeneau@bakermckenzie.com >

Date: Monday, January 4, 2021 at 7:53 PM To: Greg Demo <GDemo@pszjlaw.com>

Cc: Jeffrey Pomerantz <jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com>, Ira Kharasch <ikharasch@pszjlaw.com>, "Frances A. Smith" <Frances.Smith@judithwross.com>, Eric Soderlund <Eric.Soderlund@judithwross.com>, "Hartmann, Michelle"

<Michelle.Hartmann@bakermckenzie.com>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: HIGHLAND: Question re Convenience Class Election under the Plan -- SENDING AGAIN

WITH GREG'S CORRECT EMAIL

Dear Greg,

Thank you for your response. I think you are conflating the term "Allowed" (which actually is defined in the plan) with the term "liquidated" (which nowhere is defined in the plan). It would be helpful to understand how a claim becomes "liquidated" in your view if it means something other than allowance. Moreover, I would note that, pursuant to section 502(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, a claim, proof of which is properly filed, is deemed allowed unless and until a party in interest objects. I am not aware of any pending objections to our clients' claims, proofs of which were properly filed. If you interpret "liquidated" to mean something more stringent than "allowed," please let me know what that definition is.

In any event, it is helpful to understand that your position is that claimants who do not have allowed claims as of the confirmation date cannot receive the same treatment under the plan as claimants who have "liquidated" claims.

If your view changes, please let me know.

Best,

Deb

Debra A. Dandeneau
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On Jan 4, 2021, at 7:42 PM, Gregory V. Demo <GDemo@pszjlaw.com> wrote:

Your clients' claims are not entitled to make the convenience class election because they are not fully liquidated, which for purposes of the plan provisions means a claim in a sum certain. The component parts of your clients' claims do not matter for purposes of this analysis. They are not entitled to make the convenience class election because their claims are not liquidated.

Your clients had the opportunity to sign the Senior Employee Stipulation, which would have given them a reduced convenience claim amount with respect to three parts of their claim with the balance of their claims being treated as GUCs. That stipulation and the resulting convenience claim provided the consideration for the release. As your clients'

have rejected the Senior Employee Stipulation, there is no pathway to any portion of their claims receiving convenience class treatment.

Gregory V. Demo

Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP Tel: 212.561.7730 | Fax: 212.561.7777

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From: Dandeneau, Debra A. [mailto:Debra.Dandeneau@bakermckenzie.com]

Sent: Monday, January 04, 2021 8:34 PM

To: Gregory V. Demo; Jeff Pomerantz; Ira Kharasch

Cc: 'Frances A. Smith'; 'Eric Soderlund'; Hartmann, Michelle

Subject: RE: HIGHLAND: Question re Convenience Class Election under the Plan -- SENDING AGAIN WITH GREG'S

CORRECT EMAIL

Thanks, Greg. I don't mean to be dense about this, but I want to make sure that we are all on the same page in terms of what you mean by "liquidated," especially as I have never seen this kind of qualification in a plan before. I am not trying to box anyone into anything in terms of the debtor's ability to object to our clients' claims, but I would like to make sure it is clear what claims will not be subject to the dropdown election and what claims are permitted to make the dropdown election. The three categories below are what comprise the "Earned Amounts" category in the draft stipulation. The draft stipulation provides that all rights are reserved with respect to other claims. I know that our clients have not signed the stipulation, but we would like to make sure that any future awards or other claims will be part of Class 8 and not subject to Class 7 treatment if our clients make the Class 7 election. Conversely, we also want to make sure that, subject to whatever rights the debtor has to object to our clients' claims, if our clients do not prevail in asserting their administrative expenses, the categories of claims that I listed below are subject to treatment under Class 7.

I think these are fair questions to ask, and I did not see any explanation of your use of the term "liquidated" in the disclosure statement that would help me understand how the debtor intends for the provision to work.

Finally, in case you are concerned about duplication of effort, I first checked with David Neier to see if he had clarified this issue, and he confirmed that he has not clarified this outside of the context of the draft stipulation.

Best,

Deb

Debra A. Dandeneau Chair, Global Restructuring & Insolvency Baker & McKenzie LLP 452 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10018

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From: Gregory V. Demo <GDemo@pszjlaw.com>

Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 5:17 PM

To: Dandeneau, Debra A. <Debra.Dandeneau@bakermckenzie.com>; Jeff Pomerantz <jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com>; Ira Kharasch <ikharasch@pszjlaw.com>

 $\label{lem:composition} \textbf{Cc: 'Frances A. Smith' < Frances.Smith@judithwross.com'>; 'Eric Soderlund' < Eric.Soderlund@judithwross.com'>; 'Eric Soderlund@judithwross.com'>; 'Eric Soderlund@judithwross.c$

Hartmann, Michelle < Michelle. Hartmann@bakermckenzie.com >

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: HIGHLAND: Question re Convenience Class Election under the Plan -- SENDING AGAIN WITH GREG'S CORRECT EMAIL

Ms. Dandeneau,

As we conveyed to Mr. Neier, only fully liquidated claims are allowed to elect convenience class treatment. Art. I.B.43; Art. III.H.8. Assuming that any portion of your clients' claim is allowed and/or liquidated, partially liquidated claims, like your clients', are not eligible for conversion.

Best,

Greq

Gregory V. Demo

Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP

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Sent: Monday, January 04, 2021 7:43 PM

To: Jeff Pomerantz; Ira Kharasch; Gregory V. Demo

Cc: 'Frances A. Smith'; 'Eric Soderlund'; Hartmann, Michelle

Subject: RE: HIGHLAND: Question re Convenience Class Election under the Plan -- SENDING AGAIN WITH GREG'S

CORRECT EMAIL

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From: Dandeneau, Debra A.

Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 4:33 PM

To: 'jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com' < jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com < mailto: jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com >>; 'ikharasch@pszjlaw.com' < jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com' >>; 'ikharasch@pszjlaw.com' < jpomerantz@pszjlaw.com' >>; 'ikharasch@pszjlaw.com' >

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<Eric.Soderlund@judithwross.com<mailto:Eric.Soderlund@judithwross.com>>; Hartmann, Michelle

<Michelle.Hartmann@bakermckenzie.com<mailto:Michelle.Hartmann@bakermckenzie.com>>>

Subject: HIGHLAND: Question re Convenience Class Election under the Plan

Dear Pachulski friends,

As you know, Baker McKenzie and the Ross & Smith firm have been retained by Scott Ellington, Frank Waterhouse, Isaac Leventon, and Thomas Surgent (the "Senior Employees") to represent them in connection with the Highland Capital Management case.

As you also know, the Senior Employees also assert that they have a right to payment in full of all their compensation-related claims as administrative expenses. I acknowledge that the debtor disagrees. Therefore, reserving all of our respective rights with respect to the administrative expense issue, I want to clarify how the plan works with respect to the election by Class 8 to drop down to Class 7 assuming that the debtor prevails in treating such claims as General Unsecured Claims.

The definition of "Convenience Class Election" in the plan references "a General Unsecured Claim that is a liquidated Claim as of the Confirmation Date." With respect to the Senior Employees, it is our understanding that what is meant by "a liquidated Claim as of the Confirmation Date" only refers to the PY 2018 Bonus Installment 3 2/28/2020, the 2017 Deferred Award 3 Year Cliff Vest 5/31/2020, and the PY 2018 Bonus Installment 4 8/31/2020 and that all other claims that might be characterized as General Unsecured Claims will remain in Class 8 notwithstanding the Class 7 election.

Is this consistent with the debtor's understanding? If not, could you please explain what the debtor's understanding is and what "a General Unsecured Claim that is a liquidated Claim as of the Confirmation Date" means?

As the deadline for returning ballots is tomorrow, I would appreciate a quick response on this.

Thanks and best regards,

Deb

Debra A. Dandeneau
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